



**MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY TASK FORCE
MINUTES
November 7, 2012**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Marlin
Theresa Michelson
Libby Tyler
Barbara Lewis
Mary Anne Downey
Barry Weiner
Esther Patt
Kathy Wallig
Nancy Barrett
Norma Linton
Chief Connolly
Mayor Prussing

OTHERS PRESENT: Keith Fleener, Security, Lt. Fitzgerald, Robin Arbiter, Mike Monson, Tim Bartlett, Urbana Park District, John Schneider, Members of the Press, Carol McKusik, Carletta Donaldson, James Baker, Durl Kruse

I. Call to Order

Mayor Prussing called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of May 4, 2011 were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

III. Old Business

There was no old business to be discussed.

IV. New Business

a. Crime Statistics

Chief Connolly distributed a handout showing crimes by type for the period of October 2010 through October 2012. He explained that the Urbana Police Department currently has 71 employees made up of 55 uniform police officers, 16 civilian employees and 5 members of the leadership team.

Chief Connolly also distributed a handout that shows statistics of criminal activity by type. He reported that crime reports are available on the City's webpage through crime-reports.com.

b. Problem Properties Update

Lt. Fitzgerald introduced Keith Fleener who is head of the security company that works with Campus Property Management.

Lt. Fitzgerald reported that the Aggravated Nuisance Ordinance has been implemented once since being passed by Council. Other properties have been discussed and Police and the City were able to meet with the property owners to resolve the issues.

Lt. Fitzgerald stated that the Police Department met with the Pointe and discussed implementing the Aggravated Nuisance Ordinance. After meeting with management a security plan was implemented.

In the Vawter/Silver area the Police Department has contacted management for CPM Properties. These buildings pose a problem because the Aggravated Nuisance Ordinance only applies to one building and the management is able to move tenants from one building to another.

Lt. Fitzgerald reported on the community groups that the Police Department works with such as neighborhood watch groups, the South Philo Road Business District, who meets quarterly, church groups.

Lt. Fitzgerald stated that the goals for 2013 are to increase community outreach, maintain open dialogue with neighborhood groups, stay ahead of problem areas, increase bike and foot patrol.

The crime statistics for apartment complexes was reviewed for the years 2010 – 2012.

Mr. Fletcher addressed the group explaining what his security firm is doing and how they work with the police.

c. Distressed Properties

Libby Tyler thanked the task force for helping to develop some tools that have helped Community Development to work with problem properties.

Ms. Tyler reported that Urbana Townhomes was the number one problematic property and it has now been condemned and tenants have been relocated. She also noted that the City is working with the property owners to demolish the buildings.

She reported that ownership of the Country Club Apartments has stabilized. The Hanford Inn is now closed and they are looking for redevelopment or demolition, Aspen Court is now under local ownership.

Ms. Tyler distributed a contact sheet for the Community Development Department so that neighbors can report problems.

d. Survey of College Towns

A survey of owner occupied and rental property of select college towns was included in the packet. In addition the crime rates for those college towns were reviewed.

e. Mayor's Proposal to Train Property Managers

Mayor Prussing reported that the police continually talk with managers and owners of apartment buildings when problems are reported. She stated that apartment complexes need to have well trained people running these buildings. She has spoken to Gary Stebbins with Weiner Companies and he has offered to help with training for managers.

Mayor Prussing discussed how Sunnycrest II was a problem property until it was sold and it has now turned around. She indicated that she has asked for input on discussing with community members about the possibility of setting up co-ops to purchase properties and turn them around.

There was a discussion that there is state law that requires training for managers unless they are an owner or realtor.

Robin Arbiter indicated that her neighborhood has talked about buildings that have disappeared and that the neighborhood appears to be disappearing. They would like to see owners who are invested in the neighborhood and interested in what is going on in the community more than just collecting rent.

V. Future Goals

There were none presented.

VI. Announcements

There were no announcements.

VII. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date will be scheduled for January 30, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolinda Ross
Recording Secretary